

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, November 25, 1993

Published Since 1877

## Mississippi Baptists convene 158th session



**Don Wilton, pastor  
First Church  
Spartanburg, S.C.**

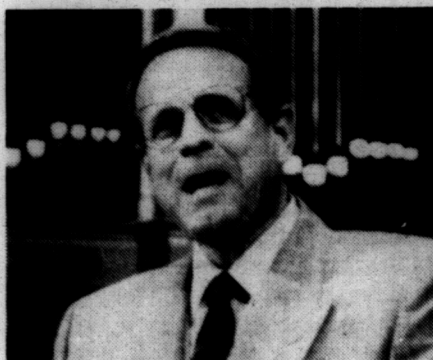


**Messengers to the 158th session** of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Nov. 16-17 at First Church, Jackson, listen intently as T.W. Hunt, prayer specialist with the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, conducts one of several Bible Treasure segments during

the annual gathering of the state's Southern Baptists. The 1,817 messengers who registered for the meeting heard sermons, conducted convention business, and elected a new slate of officers. See inside pages for details. (Photos by William H. Perkins Jr.)



**Jerry Rankin, president  
Foreign Mission Board  
Richmond, Va.**



**Tom Elliff, pastor  
First Southern Church  
Del City, Okla.**



**T.W. Hunt, prayer specialist  
Baptist Sunday School Board  
Nashville, Tenn.**



**Frank Pollard, pastor  
First Church  
Jackson, Miss.**



**S. Truett Cathy, founder  
Chick-fil-A  
Atlanta, Ga.**



**Ken Hemphill, director  
Southern Baptist Center for Church Growth  
Atlanta, Ga.**

### *S.F. pastor files suit*

A San Francisco pastor, fired from his city job, filed suit Oct. 28 against the mayor who terminated him. According to the complaint filed in San Francisco County Superior Court, Eugene Lumpkin, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in San Francisco, answered a television reporter's question last August concerning homosexuality by saying he believed it was immoral and condemned by the Bible. The lawsuit claims Lumpkin was fired by Mayor Frank Jordan on the basis of Lumpkin's expression of his religious convictions. Jordan, who appointed Lumpkin to the city commission for human rights, had commended Lumpkin in the past for his impartiality while serving on the commission, according to Lumpkin's attorney. The lawsuit asks that Lumpkin be reinstated to his former position and that Jordan be prevented from any further discriminatory practices aimed at religious expression. Feelings run high against anti-homosexual attitudes in San Francisco, where a Baptist church was recently attacked for inviting a pro-family speaker to the church.

### *O'Hair despairs*

Lifelong atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair, in an interview with the *Austin American-Statesman* newspaper in her hometown of Austin, Texas, said she believes she is losing her battle to sweep religion from public life in America. She expressed particular concern for the June "March for Jesus" campaign in Austin, who attracted over 20,000 people to the city where her wide-ranging atheist organization is based. "They have 20,000 out in the street, where when (atheists) were here for the convention, we got 300 or 400 out in the street in Austin — you can't have that." O'Hair has suffered several setbacks to her movement over the past several years, including her son's acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and his subsequent career in evangelism based on his powerful personal testimony. Fear of O'Hair among Christians remains high, however, as evidenced by the decades-old rumors still making the rounds that falsely describe her intentions to rid television of Christian programming and prevent astronauts from carrying Bibles into orbit.

### *Looking Back...*

#### **10 years ago**

Miss Edwina Robinson, retired director of the Mississippi WMU and chairperson of the committee for the Mississippi Baptist historical tapestry, is on hand as the tapestry is dedicated and placed on a foyer wall of the Baptist Building.

#### **20 years ago**

Mississippi Baptists bid farewell to retiring MBCB executive secretary-treasurer Douglas Hudgins as he lays hands on Earl Kelly, inaugurated at the 138th session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention as the board's ninth executive secretary-treasurer.

#### **50 years ago**

A Copiah County pastor objects to his church's involvement in *The Baptist Record* Every Family Plan because, he says, all the church members read the paper's sermons each week, thereby exposing the source of many of his Sunday messages.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

## Pray ye therefore

The 158th session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention could well be known as the convention of prayer. From the beginning, when Nell Adams sang, "The Lord's Prayer," to the last fall of the gavel, it was an upbeat convention. The messengers seemed to be saying, "Let's move on to the main thing."

T.W. Hunt, SBC prayer leader, said, "Prayer is work; maybe that's why we don't do much of it."

It was a convention of great mission interest. Jerry Rankin, Foreign Mission Board president and a native Mississippian, stirred the messengers with the onward march of the Lord's work. The Lay Missions Conference was well attended and the attendance of a Honduran delegation created much interest.

A high moment occurred Tuesday evening when Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Roberto Rodriguez, national partnership coordinator for the Honduras Convention, signed an agreement formalizing the partnership relationship between Mississippi and Honduras.

## Thanksgiving Day —

## Celebration of God's benevolence

By Marvin E. Taylor

The first Thanksgiving proclamation was issued in 1623 by William Bradford, colonial governor of the settlers who landed on Plymouth Rock. It read:

"To all ye Pilgrims; Inasmuch as the great Father has given us this year an abundant harvest of Indian corn, wheat, beans, squash and garden vegetables, and has made our forests abound in game, and the sea with fish and clams, and,

"Inasmuch as he has protected us from the ravages from the savages, has spared us from pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience, Now, I, your Magistrate do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with your little ones do gather at ye meeting house on ye hill between the hours of nine and twelve in the daytime on Thursday, November 29th, of the year one thousand six hundred and twenty-three, and the third year since ye Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock, there to listen to ye Pastors and render thanksgiving to Almighty God for all his blessings."

One hundred and one settlers landed on Plymouth Rock in 1620. That first winter they had suffered

Billy Joe Beckett, FMB trustee from Columbus, spoke of the tremendous needs and the opportunities available on the mission field.

Frank Pollard, pastor of hosting First Church, Jackson, capped it declaring that the world is in darkness, and "darkness has always been dark. Jesus said, 'I send you to be light.'"

The Convention supports the Cooperative Program. Mississippi continues to rank tops or near the top in most phases of giving. True, we did not vote to raise the percentage of gifts to SBC causes by one-half of one percent, but hopefully churches will seek to give a higher percentage of total offerings to the Cooperative Program. The work of home and foreign missions, our seven seminaries, Radio-TV Commission, and other commissions are doing creditable work, and their opportunities for ministry also are many.

Volunteer mission work and partnership ventures will continue to grow. Lay persons have tasted the thrill of missions. This "hands-on" ministry has struck a deep chord of response. The partner-

ships with Illinois, Alaska, Honduras, and Zimbabwe have been fruitful.

Baptists are concerned with social issues. Paul Jones, director of the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Convention, said there is "good news" today in this area. The U.S. Supreme Court let stand a Mississippi law on obtaining parental consent prior to unmarried minors having abortions. Baptists have registered opposition to homosexuality, gambling, and the rising crime rate.

Christian education is still a matter of concern. Positive reports were given from William Carey College, Blue Mountain College, and Mississippi College. A resolution was passed to pray for MC, Dr. and Mrs. Lewis Nobles, and to encourage the trustees in all their intentions to release a comprehensive report when available.

Baptists have determined to stay on course. Many good causes beckon, but the main one remains winning Mississippi and the world to Jesus. There were many encouraging signs that this goal is on the hearts of Mississippi Baptists.

cold, hunger, and disease. They were terrified by wild animals that roamed the forests, as well as great fear of the Indians. By the spring of 1621, 46 of the 101 settlers had died and were secretly buried to keep the Indians from knowing that their number had diminished to an extent that the survivors could be easily captured and killed.

By chance, some corn was found in shacks where the Indians had stored it, and when spring came the settlers began clearing away trees, bushes, vines, and briars, preparing the soil for planting the corn. Fall came and there was an abundant harvest.

A thanksgiving festival was held at which time the hunters went into the woods and brought back all kinds of wild game such as geese, ducks, squirrels, and wild turkeys.

Having made peace with the Indians and their chief, Massoit, 90 Indians came along, bringing five deer their hunters had killed with bows and arrows.

The Continental Congress set several Thanksgiving days during the American Revolution, urging the people to rejoice and give thanks in their homes and churches for the victories being won over

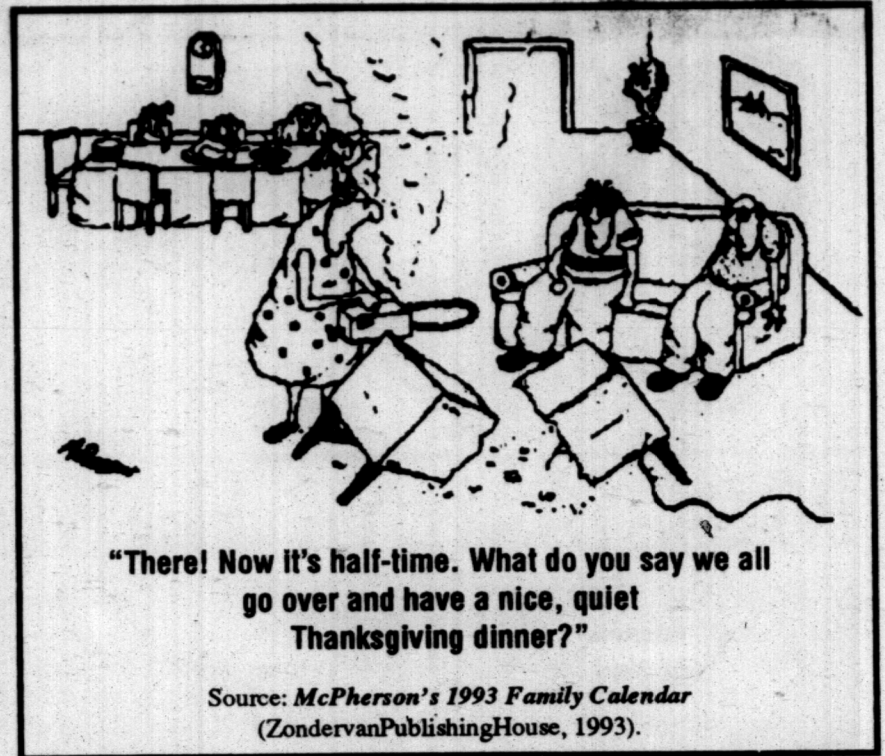
the British.

The father of our country, George Washington, issued a proclamation in 1789 which said in part, "Whereas, as both houses of Congress have by their joint committee requested me to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with gratitude and grateful hearts the many and signal blessings and favours of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness, Now,

"I therefore do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the people of the United States to the service of that Great and Glorious Being, which is Beneficent Author of all good that was, that is, and/or all that will be."

Our Thanksgiving season, as currently observed, seems to incorporate both the civil and religious aspects of thanksgiving, with the civil dominating. It ought not to be so.... Thanksgiving initiated, proclaimed, and practiced should be just that — thanksgiving.

Taylor is a Sunday School teacher from Hamilton.



## THE FRAGMENTS

## Truly thankful

Bataan is a bitter memory for many Americans. In April 1942 some 10,000 Americans and 75,000 Filipino troops surrendered to the Japanese Army. Most of the troops were starved, sick, and felt abandoned. They were corralled from Corregidor Island and brought to the southern tip of Bataan.

The next day the emaciated troops started the march to the rail junction at San Fernando. Many, ill with dysentery and without medicine, dropped from exhaustion. Usually they were bayoneted and left to die. Through village after village the former grand Army of Gen. McArthur limped by.

Brave Filipinos, when possible, gave them water and food. By the

time they reached San Fernando, 2,320 had died. In the tight boxcars and at the Capas prison, another 7,000 would die. Even Gen. Homma, the Japanese commander, expressed surprise at the high casualty count.

More than 30 years later, an American made his way to a church in Manila. He said, "I became a believer in Christ on that march. I remembered my folks who prayed often for me; the kind Filipinos who helped me. God spared my life and I wanted to walk again the road where I met him. God is merciful and kind; I thank him every day."

This year, we bow in a free country on Thanksgiving day and praise God for all his benefits. — GH

## I wish I had said that

Tom Elliff told of a frustrated woman who said, "God will write 'Michelob' over the door of the church." Presumably she meant "Ichabod."

"Of all the things on earth, the church is the only thing Christ is coming back to get." — Pastor's Conference

"My source of strength for my 77 years — God answers prayer. Ye have not because ye ask not." — W.W. Walley's presidential address

"We can imitate the wind, but not the power." — Men's Ensemble, First Church, McComb, singing "Send a Holy Ghost Revival."

"We can become accustomed to no longer being the church, but an audience, merely a religious customer. Toleration is America's new religion." — Frank Pollard, First Church, Jackson.

"I was saved yesterday. Thank

God we have Christian colleges." — A student's letter in the ministerial education report by J.M. Wood.

"We started closing our restaurants on Sunday in 1946... today we have 475 restaurants in 32 states and still close on Sunday." — S. Truett Cathy, founder of Chick-fil-A, Inc.

"The next year the same magazine named Ayatollah Khomeini 'man of the year.'" — Frank Pollard on being introduced as one of Time's seven "best Protestant preachers" for 1979.

"My next book will be entitled 'How to Make a Living Without Working,' which ought to go over big with the preachers." — S. Truett Cathy introducing his first book.

"Next time we send the dog to camp and the children to obedience school." — A distraught parent, on trying to shop with two children.

## The Baptist Record

VOLUME 117 (ISSN-0005-5778) NUMBER 41  
Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

Editor.....Guy Henderson  
Associate Editor.....William H. Perkins Jr.  
Advertising/News writer.....Teresa Dickens  
Editorial Associate.....Florence Larrimore  
Circulation Manager.....Renee Walley  
Bookkeeper.....Betty Anne Bailey  
Layout/News writer.....Shannon Simpson  
Editor Emeritus.....Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Deborah Brunt, Corinth; Susan Kinton, Walnut Grove; Randy Turner, Laurel; Horace Kerr, Brandon; Grady Collins, Philadelphia; Teresa Dickens, secretary.  
Postmaster: Send changes of address to THE BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Send news, communication, and address changes to The Editor, Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 (601) 968-3800



# Court lets consent law stand in Mississippi

WASHINGTON (ABP) — The U.S. Supreme Court Nov. 15 let stand a Mississippi law that requires an unmarried minor to obtain consent from both parents before having an abortion.

The high court declined to review an appeals-court decision that Mississippi's parental-consent law is constitutional.

In recent years, the Supreme Court has given more flexibility for states to regulate abortion. However, this is the first time the court has allowed a state to require the consent of both parents.

The Mississippi statute provides some exceptions. If the minor's parents are divorced or living apart, the consent of the primary care giver is enough. Minors also may have an abortion with the consent of only one parent if one parent is not available "in a reasonable time and manner" or if the pregnancy is the result of incest.

The law also provides for a judicial bypass in which the minor may petition the court to waive the consent requirement. The court can waive the requirement if the minor is "mature and well-informed enough to make the abortion decision on her own; or that performance of the abortion would be in the best interests of the minor."

The law also provides an exemption for medical emergencies — a doctor may perform an abortion without consent if the physician deems the case to require an immediate abortion.

A group of doctors and medical clinics filed suit, claiming the law was unconstitutional. They argued that the law does not serve an important state interest and unduly restricts a minor's access to abortions.

The case was *Barnes vs. Mississippi*.

# Mississippi family donates \$1 million to mission work in former Soviet Union

By Marty Croll

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — An anonymous Southern Baptist family from Mississippi has given \$1 million to the Foreign Mission Board to support rapidly growing mission work in the former Soviet Union.

The donors responded to a conversation with "someone who has a vital interest in that part of the world," said Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

In a gift sent through the Mississippi convention, the donors designated the money to meet 10 specific needs in the region through the Foreign Mission Board. The \$1 million check was dated Oct. 25.

"This was just a lifesaver," said John Floyd, FMB area director for Europe. "We've been asking the Lord for provisions."

Alerted in advance that someone wanted to make the donation, Floyd contacted mission leaders in the former Soviet region in mid-October about key ministry needs. Then he prepared a list of recommendations on how to spend the money if it were given.

The donors studied the recommendations and found them exciting, Causey said. In a letter to the Foreign Mission Board, he said he joined in their prayer "that God may use this to bring spiritual awakening to that part of our world."

Mission funds have been tight in the region, which has seen a rapid influx of missionaries during the past three years. Because the mission board has had too little money to buy housing for missionaries, rents have consumed the bulk of their operating budgets.

In a letter to the donors, Causey said he was moved by the dona-

tion. "Your sincerity and wholeness communicate... what a marvelous family you are," he said.

FMB President Jerry Rankin also praised the donors for awareness of "what God is doing in that part of the world through the Foreign Mission Board" and for sensitivity to God's leadership.

"This demonstrates how God works to meet strategic needs when he's moving throughout the world.... If we're committed to being obedient to God and responding to opportunities, then God's going to provide the resources," Rankin said.

Here's where the money will go:

- \$420,000 for housing and Russian-made automobiles for six missionary families assigned to the former Soviet Union.

- \$140,000 to repair buildings returned to Baptists from former communist governments.

- \$230,000 to pay partial construction costs for seminaries in Odessa, Ukraine, where churches are starting by the hundreds each year; in Moscow, where Russian Baptists prayed for a school for several decades; and in Kiev.

- \$78,000 to translate and print discipleship training materials and teach church leaders how to use them.

- \$50,000 to support one faculty member in a "Bible Chair" at a university in Obninsk, Russia.

- \$82,000 to train church starters among local Baptist leaders, support Southern Baptist evangelism efforts and set up an electronic communication link among missionaries scattered throughout the vast reaches of the former Soviet Union.

Croll writes for FMB.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, November 25, 1993

Published Since 1877

# Yancey elected president, budget remains the same

By Tim Nicholas

Richard Johnson, pastor of Parkview Church, Greenville, and a trustee of Golden Gate Seminary. He defeated Paul Blanchard, director of missions for Winston Association.

Resolutions ranged from appreciating decisions of some Mississippi television stations to commending Mississippi College trustees.

Messengers said they appreciated the five American Broadcasting Company television affiliates in Mississippi for choosing not to broadcast "NYPD Blues," a network program "which features gratuitous sex and dehumanizing violence," said the resolution. Those affiliates are WAPT (Jackson), WTOK (Meridian), WLOV (Tupelo/West Point), WLOX (Biloxi), and WABG (Greenwood).

A resolution applauded actions of a Jackson high school principal who was in the news recently for allowing "voluntary, student-initiated, and student-led prayers." The resolution pledged "our full support to... those administrators who support and encourage such activity." The principal, Bishop Knox, has been placed on indefinite administrative leave after prayers were broadcast over the school's intercom two weeks ago.

Another resolution approved expressed "strong opposition to

the availability and continued use of violence and sexually explicit material" in public media.

Noting last week's U.S. Supreme Court's upholding of a Mississippi law requiring parental consent for a minor child to have an abortion, the convention passed a resolution commending members of the 1986 state legislature for writing that notion into law.

A resolution noted the conclusion of a three-year missions partnership with Illinois Baptists and another resolution concerned convention-owned Mississippi College. It commended trustees for their announced intention of releasing a comprehensive report concerning the troubles at that institution and promised prayer for current and former college officials.

Earlier this year, MC President Lewis Nobles resigned in the face of an investigation of misuse of funds. Federal prosecutors are looking into charges Nobles converted college monies to personal use.

The subject of Mississippi College came up two other times during the convention. Early in the convention Education Commission Chairman Frank Harmon, pastor of First Church, Newton, read a statement from the commission (See CONVENTION, page 10)

Mississippi Baptists, meeting Nov. 16-17 at First Church, Jackson, approved a static budget, elected a Pascagoula pastor as president, and stuck to positive statements in their resolutions.

The 1994 Cooperative Program budget remained at \$22,452,000 with 37% (or \$8,307,240) going to SBC causes outside the state, the same amount and percentage as for 1993. This was in the face of an expected 1993 budget shortfall of \$750,000.

Billy Beckett, of Mt. Zion Church, Columbus, and a Foreign Mission Board trustee, spoke of foreign missions needs and moved the budget be amended by adding one half of one percent to SBC causes outside the state which would be an additional \$179,616.

Several messengers spoke concerning the amendment including Bill Kent of Providence Church, Meadville, and Richard Johnson, the new second vice president, speaking for; and Lee Berg of First Church, Meridian, and Larry Otis of Calvary Church, Tupelo, speaking against.

During the discussion, Berg noted the FMB has cash reserves of more than \$200 million. Lewis Myers, an FMB vice president, told messengers that the operating reserves are less than half that authorized by the SBC and if the money were only used for missionary support, would last 11 months. He said the amount was less than \$100 million.

The budget amendment failed and the original budget passed.

Elected president was Rex Yancey, pastor of First Church, Pascagoula, and a former chairman of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Executive Committee. He defeated Malcolm Lewis, pastor of Northcrest Church, Meridian, in a ballot vote, 735 to 598. Yancey was nominated by Jim Futral, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, and outgoing Executive Committee chairman.

Lewis was nominated by Bobby Williamson, pastor of Park Place Church, Brandon, and outgoing Pastor's Conference president. Voting numbers fell off after that. Ballots cast for the second vice president a few hours later totaled 626.

First vice president is Kara Blackard, pastor of Wheeler Grove Church, near Corinth. He defeated James Ruffin, pastor of Poplar Springs Drive Church, Meridian. Second vice president is



Pictured are the new officers of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Front row from left are first vice president, Kara Blackard, pastor of Wheeler Grove Church near Corinth; president, Rex Yancey, pastor of First Church, Pascagoula; and second vice president, Richard Johnson, pastor of Parkview Church, Greenville. Second row are recording secretary, J.W. Brister, director of missions, Hinds-Madison Association; and assistant recording secretary, Levonn Moore, retired director of missions, Attala Association. The latter two were re-elected by acclamation.



# Report of the Committee on Nominations

The report of the Committee on Nominations is presented below. The Committee on Nominations who served this year are: Gerald Buckley, chmn., Petal; William Vail, Oxford; Phil Walker, Madison; Bobby Douglas, Columbus; and Mrs. Joan Tyler, Collins.

## MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD

\* Indicates "at large" members

Underlined is a new term or new member filling unexpired term.

### TERM EXPIRES 1994 - (5 at large members\*)

Aitala	Barry Corbett	Kosciusko
Carroll	Leon Holly	Vaiden
George	Lester Hatcher	Lucedale
Greene	Dan Hembree	McLain
Grenada	Clarence Cooper Jr.	Grenada
Hinds-Madison	Frank H. Thomas Jr.*	Jackson
Holmes	Jerry Bishop	Durant
Jasper	David McKee	Heidelberg
Jeff Davis	L.C. Anthony	Newhebron
Jones	Wade Rogers	Taylorville
Lamar	Jimmy King	Hattiesburg
Lamar	Bartis Harper*	Lumberton
Lauderdale	David L. Sellers	Collinsville
Lauderdale	William B. Webb*	Meridian
Lawrence	Mike Reid	Jayess
Lebanon	W.A. Fordham	Petal
Lebanon	Eleanor Gerrard*	Hattiesburg
Lee	Ken Anderson	Saltillo
Leflore	Dennis McKay	Greenwood
Lincoln	Robert Perry	Brookhaven
Mississippi	David Luce	Smithdale
Monroe	Hal Bates	Amory
Montgomery	Dewitt Cutts	Weir
North Delta	Harvey Sewell	Crowder
North Delta	Jack Wilkes	Tunica
Northwest	Charles E. Cavanaugh	Arkabutla
Northwest	P.J. Scott*	Olive Branch
Pearl River	G.A. McCoy	Carriere
Perry	Joe Strahan	Beaumont
Scott	S.A. (Sonny) Adkins	Forest
Washington	Earl Ezell	Greenville
Winston	Jerry Lundy	Louisville

### TERM EXPIRES 1995 - (10 at large members\*)

Adams	Odean Puckett*	Natchez
Adams	Steve Purvis	Natchez
Alcorn	Randy Bostick	Corinth
Benton	Roy Bostick	Hickory Flat
Itawamba	Howard Peak	Fulton
Hinds-Madison	Glenn Calloway*	Clinton
Jackson	Peggy Davis*	Moss Point
Lawrence	Paul E. Smith*	Monticello
Lee	Robert Upchurch*	Tupelo
Marion	Gerald Keith Gordon	Columbia
Marshall	Thad Moore	Holly Springs
Newton	Charles Melton	Newton
North Delta	Carl White	Clarksdale
Oktibbeha	Don Blasingame*	Starkville
Oktibbeha	Hal Selby	Starkville
Prentiss	Doyle Ferrell	Booneville
Rankin	G. Ricky Gray	Petal
Rankin	Gene Henderson*	Brandon
Sharkey-Issa	Jo Ann Whitten	Valley Park
Sharkey-Issa	Reese Kyzar	Rolling Fork
Simpson	Oliver Ladnier*	Magee
Simpson	Kermit McGregor	Mendenhall
Sunflower	Bobby Kirk	Doddsville
Tallahatchie	Gary Adams	Charleston
Tippah	Bobby Martin	Ripley
Tishomingo	Tommy Purvis	Belmont
Union	Charles Tyler	Vicksburg
Walshall	Robert Jones	Tylertown
Warren	Bill Patten*	Vicksburg
Washington	Virgil Wells*	Greenville
Wayne	Arthur Lee Nored	Waynesboro
Webster	Malcolm Pinion	Mantee
Yalobusha	Troy Hurdle	Water Valley
Yazoo	Jerry Alexander	Benton

### TERM EXPIRES 1996 - (3 at large members\*)

Bolivar	Tommy Arinder	Cleveland
Calhoun	Tommy Arinder	Vardaman
Chickasaw	Roy McHenry	Okolona
Choctaw	Danny Bryant	Weir

Clarke	Albert H. McMullen	Stonewall
Clay	Troy Land	West Point
Copiah	Leroy Brewer Jr.	Crystal Springs
Covington	Jimmie Baggett	Collins
Franklin	Darnell Archie	Bude
Gulf Coast	Ed Deuschle	Bay St. Louis
Gulf Coast	David W. Spencer	Long Beach
Gulf Coast	Burn Page	Wiggins
Gulf Coast	George Holifield*	Biloxi
Hinds-Madison	Jim Futral	Jackson
Hinds-Madison	John Temple	Madison
Hinds-Madison	Charles Gladney*	Madison
Humphreys	Billy McKay	Belzoni
Jackson	Dennis Ray Smith	Pascagoula
Kemper	Doug Phillips	Daleville
Lafayette	Marty J. Evans Jr.	Oxford
Leake	Frank Smith	Carthage
Lowndes	Tim Williams	Columbus
Mississippi	Dan Howard	Woodville
Neshoba	Curtis Guess	Union
New Choctaw	Calvin Gibson*	Philadelphia
Northwest	Randy Mobley	Nesbit
Noxubee	Lee Castle	Macon
Panola	Jerry Sanford	Sardis
Pike	A.C. Garner Jr.	Tylertown
Pontotoc	James Francis	Pontotoc
Smith	Lyn Nations	Mize
Union	Leslie Hicks	Port Gibson
Union County	Dean Timbes	New Albany
Warren	James C. Hess	Vicksburg

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

S.A. (Sonny) Adkins	Forest
Clarence Cooper Jr.	Grenada
Barry Corbett	Kosciusko
Earl Ezell	Greenville
Jim Futral	Jackson
Bartis Harper	Lumberton
Gene Henderson	Brandon
Kermit McGregor	Mendenhall
Billy McKay	Belzoni
Odean Puckett	Natchez
P.J. Scott, board president	Olive Branch
David L. Sellers, board vice president	Collinsville
H. Frank Smith, board secretary	Carthage
Robert Upchurch, layman	Tupelo
William B. Webb	Meridian
Joann Whitten	Valley Park

## BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS 1994-1996

\* Indicates beginning a new, three-year term.  
\*\* and underlined if completing an unexpired term.  
Underlined if not on board last year.

## BOARD OF MINISTERIAL EDUCATION

Term expires 1994

David Millican	McComb
Hal Buchanan	Tupelo
Gary Fordham	Petal

Term expires 1995

James Ruffin	Meridian
Dell Scoper	Laurel
Louise Griffith	Clinton

\* Term expires 1996

Joseph T. Campbell	Hattiesburg
LuAnne Ford	Booneville
Ernest C. Turcotte Jr.	Clinton

## CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION

Term expires 1994

Nathan Barber	Hattiesburg
Sue Tatum	Yazoo City
Vickie McCall**	Clinton
Kendall Moore**	Jackson
Ken Traylor	Gulfport

Term expires 1995

Jim Brannon	Meridian
Clayton Bath	Port Gibson
Clifton Porter	Rolling Fork
Jim Beckett	Bruce
Jimmy McGee	Monticello

\* Term expires 1996

Tommy Naron	Cleveland
Bobbie Foster	Prentiss
John Walker	Winona
Eddie Jones	Greenville
Tommy Tutor	Clarksdale

## EDUCATION COMMISSION

Term expires 1994

Dean Register	Hattiesburg
Robert Self	Brookhaven
John McCarty	Brandon
Eddie Kinchen	Terry

Term expires 1995

Charles Pickering	Hattiesburg
Horace Holmes	Summit
Raymon Leake	Picayune
Gayle Alexander	Tupelo

\* Term expires 1996

Ann Hardy	Jackson
Bobby Douglas	Columbus
Jim Phillips	Greenwood
Randy Turner	Laurel

## HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Term expires 1994

Dan Wynn	Natchez
Bobby Walton	Benoit
Wayne Gullett	Calhoun City

Term expires 1995

Jack Gunn	Cleveland
Cathy Jeffcoats	Jackson
J.C. Mitchell	Columbus

\* Term expires 1996

Richard Ethridge	Decatur
Talmadge Smith	Brookhaven
Peggy Huey	Hattiesburg

## THE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

Term expires 1994

Fred Gaddis	Forest
Bill Sones	Brookhaven
James T. Hollingsworth	Hollandale
J.V. Parker Jr.**	Laurel
Billy Brumfield	Quitman

Term expires 1995

Robert King	Jackson
Glyn Hester	Nettleton
Talmadge Raybon	Waveland
Gary O. Parker	Brandon
Billy Pyron	Natchez

\* Term expires 1996

Rebecca Williams	Gautier
Tom Winstead	Clinton
Terry Wills	Tomnolen
Austin Moore	Independence
Ruth Thomas	Vicksburg

## BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Term expires 1994

Kearney Travis	Hattiesburg
Paul Breazeale	Jackson
Joe W. Gary	Belden

Term expires 1995

Charles Loftin	Brookhaven
Victor P. Smith	Jackson
E.E. (Ted) Laird	Jackson

\* Term expires 1996

W.H. Johnson Jr.	Decatur
Norris Stampley	Jackson
John Gibson Jr.	Greenwood

## MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER

Term expires 1994

Henry Holman	Jackson
Paul Moak Sr.	Jackson
J.W. Underwood	Jackson
Woodrow Bailey	Jackson
Ellis Moffitt	Jackson

Term expires 1995

William T. Dawson	Jackson
Joel Haire	Crystal Springs
Alvis Hunt	Jackson
Lyn Harkness	Lexington
Bob Pittman	Jackson

\* Term expires 1996

Wayne Burkes	Clinton
James Street	Jackson
Joan Tyler	Collins
Howard L. McMillan Jr.	Jackson
Ralph Rives	Madison

## BAPTIST MEMORIAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, INC.

Term expires 1994

William Hall Preston Jr.	Booneville
Peyton Self	Marks
Tom Sumrall	New Albany

Term expires 1995

John Keeton	Grenada
Lucius Marion	Clarksdale
Dana Kelly	Jackson

\* Term expires 1996

Robert Calvert	Ashland
Cameron Dean	Tribbett
Patti Dent	Clinton

## BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

Term expires 1994

Thad Moore**	Holly Springs
Larry Taylor	Jackson
Dorothy Ruff	Tupelo
Dennis Smith	Corinth
Lourie Allen	Amory

Term expires 1995

John Armistead	Tupelo
Daisy Howell	Cleveland
Pattie Stanford	Ripley
Ray M. Sartor	Ripley
Erma Spratlin	Bruce

\* Term expires 1996

Douglas McDonald	Anguilla
Lena Mae Gregory	Corinth
James M. Lewis	Meridian
Bobby P. Martin	Ripley
Joyce Beasley	Tupelo

## MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

Term expires 1994

J. Kelly Allgood	Jackson
Harry Vickery	Greenville
Eddie Hamilton	Jackson
Leland Speed	Jackson
Roy Noble Lee	Forest

Term expires 1995

W.B. Alexander	Cleveland
W.W. Gresham Jr.	Indianola
Frank Gunn	Biloxi
Charles Fail	Bay Springs
W.K. Paine	Jackson

\* Term expires 1996

Aven Whittington	Greenwood
John Rogers	Brandon
J.W. Fagan	Laurel
Jimmy Porter	McComb
Gordon H. Sansing	Vicksburg

## WILLIAM CAREY

Term expires 1994

Rex Yancey	Pascagoula
William S. Stewart	Eupora
Ollie Thomas	Hattiesburg
Bobby Perry	Gulfport
Carl Touchstone	Laurel

Term expires 1995

Joseph Fail	Bay Springs
Joe Meadows	Gulfport
Polly Love Morris	Jackson
Billy Browning	Laurel
Larry Patterson	Biloxi

\* Term expires 1996

James F. Yates	Yazoo City
James Gordon	Hattiesburg
Steve Greenhaw	Columbus
Rex Braswell	Hattiesburg
Bobby Williamson	Brandon

## BAPTIST RECORD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Deborah Brunt	Corinth	1 yr.
Horace Kerr	Brandon	1 yr.
Grady Collins	Philadelphia	2 yrs.
Robert Self	Brookhaven	2 yrs.
David Raddin	Yazoo City	3 yrs.
Charles Dunagin	Summit	3 yrs.

## CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Jackie Cooke	Ruleville	1 yr.
Peggy Huey	Hattiesburg	1 yr.
Bobby Perry	Gulfport	2 yrs.
Ron McGee	Meridian	2 yrs.
R.P. Sugg	Jackson	3 yrs.
Burn Page	Wiggins	3 yrs.



# Moderates prevail in several key state convention races

(ABP) — The effort to extend conservative Southern Baptist control into the state conventions was less than successful during the recent round of fall state meetings.

Presidential candidates backed by conservative forces lost in at least seven large Baptist conventions — in Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, North Carolina, Texas, and Virginia.

However, conservatives won in several other states, including South Carolina and Arkansas.

Presidential elections in Tennessee and Mississippi lacked overt political overtones, according to longtime observers. And in Georgia, site of frequently hot political battles, the president was re-elected to a customary second term without opposition. An incumbent also was re-elected without opposition in Alabama.

Conservatives have targeted the state convention presidencies, hoping to repeat the success they had in using the Southern Baptist Convention presidency to steer the national SBC onto a more conservative course.

But Baptists in several states rejected what they called SBC-style politics on the state level.

In Louisiana, the presidential election offered messengers a choice between David Hankins, a national SBC leader who endorsed the denomination's new conservative slant, and Mark Sutton, a Shreveport pastor who said Louisiana Baptists don't need to import the SBC controversy.

Sutton, pastor of Brookwood Church, defeated Hankins by a vote of 1,301 to 1,130. Hankins, pastor

of Trinity Church, Lake Charles, is outgoing chairman of the powerful SBC Executive Committee.

In the weeks before the election, Hankins' supporters used a full-color brochure to tout his endorsement of the SBC's conservative movement and his desire "to help Louisiana Baptists move forward in the same direction."

The elections in North Carolina also featured unabashed politicking, with four candidates backed by the moderate Friends of Missions group sweeping the elections. Flyers promoting conservative, moderate, and non-aligned candidates were distributed at the meeting.

Mt. Airy pastor Alfred Ayscove defeated Coy Privette of Kannapolis 55% to 45%.

That campaign has been directed in part by T.C. Pinkney, a retired Virginia layman and SBC Executive Committee officer. Pinkney and others organized at least three conservative strategy sessions in the past year in preparation for the fall conventions. Pinkney could not be reached for comment Nov. 18.

"Don't mess with Texas!" was the warning of Jerold McBride, who won the Texas Baptist presidency in late October by campaigning against SBC-style politics in the state. "We don't need that here."

At the Florida Baptist Convention, one of nine big Deep South conventions to meet during the week of Nov. 17, messengers defeated a slate of candidates nominated by the conservative leaders.

George Thomasson, a pastor from West Palm Beach, defeated

Lakeland pastor Michael Hailey, who has close ties to national SBC leaders (451-382).

In Kentucky, where conservatives surprised many by winning the presidency last year, moderates reclaimed the office. Somerset pastor Bob Browning defeated Don Short of Benton by a vote of 968 to 821. Although neither candidate identified himself politically, Browning largely was supported by Baptist moderates and Short largely was supported by Baptist conservatives.

In Missouri, messengers meeting in late October defeated a presidential candidate openly endorsed by an organization of conservative pastors in the state. Hallsville pastor Ralph Sawyer lost by a 350-vote margin to T. O. Spicer Jr., first vice president during 1993.

And in Virginia, moderate-backed candidates swept the offices. Richmond pastor Ron Crawford was elected president in a runoff. Crawford won 49.9% of the vote on the first ballot, while conservative-backed Vander Warner of Richmond received 27% and centrist Cecil Chambers of Richmond won 23%.

In South Carolina, Rock Hill pastor Steve Hogg led a sweep by conservative candidates to convention offices. Hogg received 1,294 votes to 871 cast for E.C. Watson, a retired denominational employee endorsed by moderates.

In Arkansas, Hot Springs pastor Ronnie Rogers won, affirming the recent "resurgence of the absolute inerrancy of Scripture" in Baptist life. He defeated Eddie McCord of Independence 384 to 347.

## Mississippi Pastor's Conference selects Turner, Register, Snyder

Bobby Williamson, pastor of Park Place Church, Brandon, and president of the Pastor's Conference, had a strong program of preaching, singing, and testimonies at the annual meeting at First Church, Jackson, Nov. 15.

James Merritt, Snellville, Ga., and former pastor of Laurel's Highland Church; James Draper, president of the Baptist Sunday

School Board; Tom Elliff of Del City, Okla.; and Nelson Price of Atlanta were the out-of-state speakers. All had strong messages on "Building People, Building Churches."

The music, as always, was outstanding. Lois Jane Huddleston, award-winning soloist from Nashville, plus Gerald and Cindy Simmons of Gulfport, Price Harris of

Shreveport, and Mississippi's own Ronnie Cottingham of Agricola, did yeoman's work in keeping to the gospel. "I Heard the Hammer" was indeed special music.

For many, the sermon by Gene Henderson, First Church, Brandon, will be remembered for a long time. He was the only state speaker on the program. His sermon on "We Have to Play Hurt" was a great message of comfort and encouragement. He pointed out the apostle Paul had to preach when hurt (2 Cor. 12:7-10). There was the constant thorn in the flesh, shipwrecked, beaten, plus the constant burden of the churches.

Henderson gave illustrations of physical, financial, and emotional difficulties which pastors may have but they must get out of the grandstand to the playing field and have "to play hurt." Paul delighted in playing hurt, for God's strength was then perfected in him, he said.

Randy Turner, pastor of First Church, Laurel, is the new president of the Pastor's Conference. Dean Register of Temple Church, Hattiesburg, is the president-elect.

— GH



Newly-elected officers of the Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference for 1993-94 include (from left) Vice-President Dean Register, pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg; President Randy Turner, pastor of First Church, Laurel; and Secretary-Treasurer Tommy Snyder, pastor of Wildwood Church in Clinton. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Thursday, November 25, 1993

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Jerry Rankin, Mississippi native and president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., addresses the 500 people who attended the Lay Missions Conference banquet at the conclusion of the conference on the evening of Nov. 15. Attendees also heard reports from Nathan Porter, who works with domestic hunger at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, and participants in the Mississippi/Honduras partnership project. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## Lay Missions Conference highlights missions needs

By Teresa Dickens

Meeting missions needs at home and abroad was the topic of the 1993 Lay Missions Conference, held Nov. 15 at First Church, Jackson. Approximately 500 people attended an evening banquet which followed an afternoon of missions fellowship meetings and interest conferences.

Nathan J. Porter, assistant director Church/Community Ministries Department of the Home Mission Board, reminded banquet attendees that God sent Jesus to bring hope and healing to a hurting world. "He sends us with that message to impact our world."

Porter recounted several examples of lay people who saw a need in their community and moved to meet it. He challenged his listeners to do the same. "All are called," Porter said. "Our responsibility is to use the gifts God has given us in service to others."

Jerry Rankin, president of the Foreign Mission Board, echoed Porter's challenge. "God has called us to incarnate the gospel and share it in love," he said. Referring to Matthew 28:19-20, he added, "Jesus has a plan: 'Go into all the world.'"

"The strategy to fulfill that plan is God's power through prayer," he continued. "When we go in his

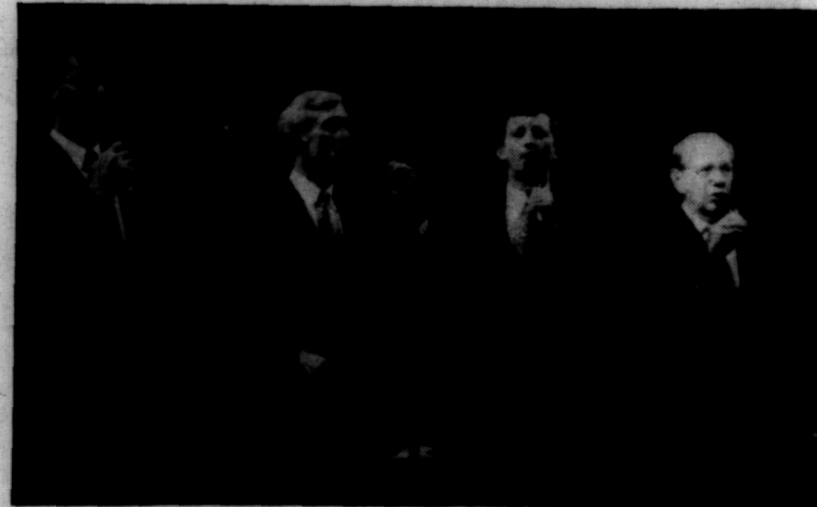
power, nothing can stand against God's purpose. Satan tries, but he knows his efforts are futile.

"God has placed the means within our hands — going, praying, giving — to fulfill his purpose of redeeming mankind to himself," he declared. "Our part is to answer his call with obedience."

Lillia de Larios, a Honduran dentist, also addressed the banquet group. She expressed appreciation for Mississippi Baptists' securing medical attention for Jose Carmino Osaguera-Mendoza. The teenager has been a patient at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center since June due to injuries he received in a bicycle accident.

Paul Harrell, Brotherhood director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, reported that during 1992-93 Mississippi sent 365 groups — representing 4,835 people — to 41 states and 30 countries in volunteer mission projects. Many of these groups participated in the partnerships Mississippi Baptists have with Alaska, Illinois, and Zimbabwe.

Harrell's report also included the introduction of Baptist representatives from Honduras who were on hand for the signing of the Mississippi-Honduras Partnership agreement.



Singing during a session of the convention were the Doctors Four, all members of First Church, Laurel. From left they are David Rice, John Hassell, John McGraw, and Eric Lindstrom. Their accompanist was Margaret Dickerson.





Pictured are the new officers of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. From left they are vice president, David Sellers, pastor of First Church, Collinsville; secretary, Frank Smith, pastor of Sunrise Church, Carthage; and president, P. J. Scott, pastor of First Church, Olive Branch. This will be Scott's third year in this post.

## Chick-fil-A founder says "we honor God with our successes"

Commitment is the difference between success and failure, according to Chick-fil-A founder S. Truett Cathy. And for Cathy, that commitment has been to good business practices and Christian convictions.

Cathy, a Baptist layman from Jonesboro, Ga., was the keynote speaker during the closing session of the 158th Mississippi Baptist Convention.

"God expects us to be successful because he created us to be successful," said Cathy. "We honor him with our successes, not our failures."

Cathy's career in the restaurant business began shortly after returning home from World War II. He and his brother opened a small restaurant in south Atlanta. Today he owns 482 restaurants in 31 states.

Christian conviction has played

## Ministers' wives meet, hear Baggott, Anderson

A minister's wife is a normal person filling a unique role, according to speakers who addressed participants of last week's Ministers' Wives Conference. Eighty-nine women attended the pre-convention meeting held Nov. 15 at First Church, Jackson.

Betty Baggott from Birmingham, Ala., challenged the women to answer three questions: Who do I love? What is my greatest desire/goal? What is my greatest fear? The answers to these questions "will determine your priorities and how you respond to the demands of your role," she said.

Baggott suggested the answers to the questions should be: God. A relationship with God. The loss of my relationship with God. "If God and your relationship with him is your focus, you will be able to

a part in Cathy's business practices from the beginning. "I have never opened one of my restaurants on Sunday," Cathy said. "Whenever I open a new restaurant, it is stated in the agreement with the shopping center that it will be closed on Sunday. I believe it is important to be consistent in your convictions."

"I teach 13 year old boys in Sunday School," Cathy explained. "On the Sundays we talk about keeping the Sabbath holy, I would feel bad if my cash registers were jiggling."

"I believe God has honored us for standing by our convictions," he added.

"God's greatest gift to mankind is the power to influence other people by what we do," Cathy remarked. "I challenge you to be at your very best regardless of your circumstances."

handle anything your role throws your way," she declared.

Candy Anderson of Jackson said a minister's wife's commitment is as a Christian. "Your commitment must be to Christ, not to the church," Anderson said. "Your church will let you down, but Christ will not. You serve Christ through your church."

Second to her commitment to Christ is a minister's wife's commitment to her husband and children. "Preserve your home at any cost," Anderson declared. "You only get one shot at it. You must strive to make your home a refuge — haven — for your husband and children."

The speakers also encouraged the women to see their role a calling and to fulfill that calling through the gifts and abilities God has given them.

# Jackson choir member is "just an older youngster"

By Shannon T. Simpson

Recipe for a great Wednesday evening: Take one inspirational speaker, add a senior adult mass choir, stir in a big dose of enthusiasm, and bake in a large sanctuary.

Messengers who left First Church, Jackson, Wednesday afternoon may have made it home in time for prayer meeting, but they missed one of the happier moments of the 158th session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Choral praise for the last session was delivered by a mass choir of Jackson-area seniors under the leadership of J.M. Wood, minister of music at Broadmoor Church, Jackson. Among those who sang for the last convention-goers was Geneva England — retired secretary, world traveler, cook, and choir enthusiast.

England, a member of Broadmoor's sanctuary and J.O.Y. (Just Older Youngsters) choirs, said her favorite part of singing at the convention was "J.M. Wood. He is such a fun person. He makes everything we do so enjoyable, and is an inspiration to all of us," she said. "He's such a dedicated Christian."

England has sung with the J.O.Y. choir since its inception in 1988. It has grown from a small group to a membership of about 45, she says. She and the J.O.Y. choir sang at last year's convention. She chuckled when she recalled the fact that "it was taken for granted we would sing again this year. Somebody forgot to call J.M.," she said. "He didn't find out that we were supposed to sing here until just a little while back." Oops!

The mother of one and grandmother of four is too busy to let something like short notice bother her, however. As fellowship chairman for the choir, she coordinates a quarterly fellowship meal and a birthday celebration for Wood. She conducts a small baking business from her home, and has traveled solo on every continent.

One Thanksgiving, she made a trip to England and Windsor Castle. While there, she met, and began a long-time correspondence with, Queen Elizabeth's librarian and butler. She recalled a strange incident from a 1982 volunteer mission trip to Haiti: "We

were staying in a compound with dorms and screened porches, and one night it was so miserably hot, we pulled our cots onto the porches to try and catch a breeze. Well, I woke up in the middle of the night, and couldn't go back to sleep. While I was lying there, I heard drums. I thought, 'What is going on with these drums beating at 2 o'clock in the morning?'

"At breakfast, I asked one of the men what the drums meant, and he told me someone was probably sacrificing something — a chicken or another animal. It could have even been a human, he thought. Well, let me tell you, it really opened my eyes to know that only a few hundred miles from our borders, there is a whole world out there we know nothing about."

Her goals, she says, are to "go every place there is to go," and to "never get old."



Geneva England, front, sings with the senior adult mass choir at the Mississippi Baptist Convention, Nov. 17.

## S.C. Baptists break ties with hospital, elect conservative-endorsed president

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP) — Messengers to the 173rd annual meeting of South Carolina Convention voted to sever legal ties with their hospital and approved a plan asking convention institutions to further clarify their relationship to the convention with changes in their charters.

The agreement to sever legal ties was worked out by hospital and convention officials in response to an August decision by hospital trustees to make their board self-perpetuating. Prior to that decision, hospital trustees were elected annually by the con-

vention, which had been naming trustees and providing funding for the organization for nearly 80 years.

Steve Hogg, pastor of First Church, Rock Hill, was elected president of the convention. Hogg led a slate of conservative-endorsed candidates who defeated a moderate slate headed by E.C. Watson, a retired denominational employee. The presidential vote was 1,294 for Hogg, 871 for Watson.

The convention's \$23.4 million 1994 budget approved by messengers reflects a \$405,000 increase

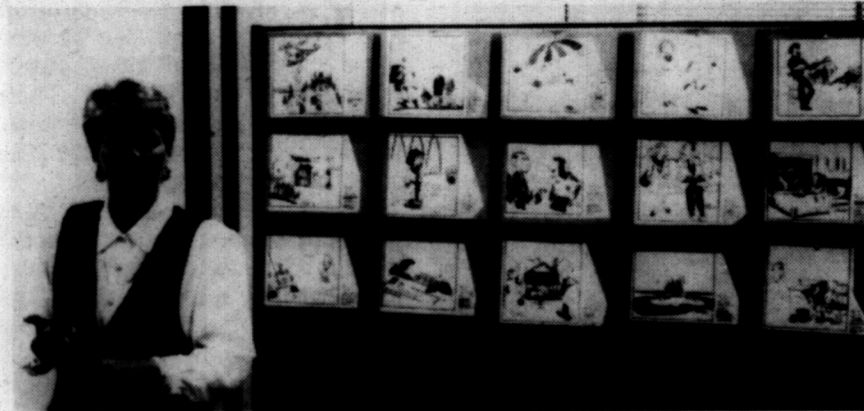
over the current budget, and it retains allocations of 60% for South Carolina causes and 40% for Southern Baptist Convention national and international causes.

## Rogers gets Liberty Bowl recognition

MEMPHIS (BP) — Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church in suburban Memphis, has been named the 1993 recipient of the St. Jude Liberty Bowl Distinguished Service Award.

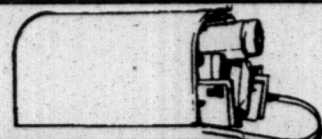
The award has been presented annually since 1972 to individuals who have excelled in their professions. Previous winners include comedians Jerry Clower and Danny Thomas; former NFL player Alan Page; TV sports exec Boone Arledge; sportscasters Chris Schenkel and Lindsey Nelson; former government official William E. Simon; the late football coach Paul "Bear" Bryant; and singers Elvis Presley and Pearl Bailey.

Rogers, 62, has served three terms as president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

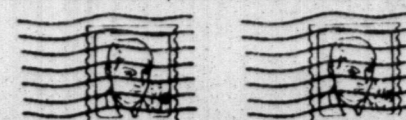


Candy Anderson speaks on "Rowing Along in a Boat... Of Your Own" at the Ministers' Wives Conference held Nov. 15, just before the start of the 158th session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Anderson is the wife of Ken Anderson, pastor of Parkway Church in Jackson. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)





# Letters to the editor



## What about blood?

Editor:

An observation, please. The full circle of truth cannot be expected to be in every Bible verse, or tract.

I know that God's Word says, "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree" (1 Pet. 2:24). This verse does not mention the blood of Jesus. Therefore I know we don't have to lapse into legalism, and demand that every time we mention salvation in Christ, we must speak of the blood shed by Jesus for us.

Nevertheless, I am concerned. I have the excellent Southern Baptist Home Mission tract, "How to Live Forever," not to mention tracts by Campus Crusade, Billy Graham, and others. Unless I have overlooked it, there is not one of these tracts concerning how to be saved that mentions the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Usually, the tracts say that we must trust in the death of Christ for forgiveness of sins, or that he died on the cross for our sins, which is absolutely true. But if he had died from a blow on the head, or a heart attack on the cross without his blood being shed, we would still be in our sins.

I do not believe in any way that this is a conspiracy, at least not by these godly men. However, when the Bible uses such statements as, "Christ died for our sins," it is in a biblical context that is saturated for centuries with verses concerning blood. That is not true in these tracts. I am not against these tracts. God has used them. I use them. Still, I am concerned about the growing trend of omitting the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

One of the most effective tracts in the history of Christianity is "God's Simple Plan of Salvation," with strong emphasis on

the blood of Jesus.

The Bible says that "... without the shedding of blood is no remission," speaking of sin (Heb. 9:22). Colossians 1:14 declares clearly and succinctly: "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins." 1 John 1:7 says, "... the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin." And even to Christians, "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb..." (Rev. 12:11).

Are we afraid to offend? Even the prayer for salvation in these tracts fails to mention the blood of Jesus Christ cleansing us from our sins.

The blood of millions of lambs shed in sacrifice centuries before Jesus came pointed to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God. He shed his blood on the cross for our salvation. He did not just "die" for us. He shed his blood for us!

Floyd C. McElveen  
Petal

**Editor's Note: The Personal Commitment Guide of the Home Mission Board is widely used in counseling and it does mention the blood.**

## FMB's Lottie use

Editor:

I have received several inquiries asking whether the Foreign Mission Board has changed its use of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Please let me confirm to your readers that the Foreign Mission Board continues to use all of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering exclusively in its overseas budget. None of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is used in the board's stateside administrative and promotional budget.

The Foreign Mission Board

treats the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering as a designated offering, designated for the overseas budget.

The Foreign Mission Board will provide to any of your readers a complete report indicating where and how the board will use the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in its 1994 budget. Those wishing a copy may write the board at P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230 or call Customer Services toll free at 1-800-866-FMB1.

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering will provide 45% of the board's budget for 1994. We look forward to Southern Baptists' tangible expression of their support for foreign missions.

Carl W. Johnson

Vice president for finance, treasurer

Foreign Mission Board  
Richmond, Va.

## Looking for a story

Editor:

One of the most significant Southern Baptist missionaries was Miss Bertha Smith. She served our Lord faithfully in China for over 40 years.

Many know "Miss Bertha." She is to be honored with the republishing of her book in 1995 at the Baptist Sesquicentennial of the Southern Baptist Convention. Her well-known, much-read book, *Go Home and Tell*, will be republished along with 11 other Broadman classics. Broadman Press has asked me to write a biography of Miss Bertha that will come out at the same time. If any of your readers have information, anecdotes, personal encounters, or any information on Miss Bertha Smith that would be helpful in the writing of this biography, I would be most

## BNF marks 10th year

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — The Baptist Nursing Fellowship celebrated its 10th anniversary by formalizing a disaster relief agreement with the American Red Cross and voting to become an international organization.

The BNF met in Birmingham, Ala., for its annual meeting Nov. 11-14 in conjunction with the Baptist Medical/Dental Fellowship.

The group also will focus volunteer work in two areas of the United States during the upcoming year — the Mississippi River area and the Appalachian Mountain region.

Officers were elected for the coming year: Marjorie Grober of Little Rock, Ark., president-elect; Annie Ruth Yelton, Columbia, S.C., secretary/heritage chairperson; Jimmy Payne, Hattiesburg, student liaison chairperson; Linda Garner, Dallas, education/professional growth chairperson; Nina George, Collinsville, Ill., nominating committee member; and Vickie McCall, Clinton, nominating committee member.

grateful if they would write me at: Lewis A. Drummond, Beeson Divinity School, Samford University, Birmingham, AL 35229.

Thank you for being so willing to put this in your state paper.

Lewis A. Drummond  
Samford University  
Birmingham, Ala.

## Getting it right

Editor:

During the debate on the budget at the recent Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting the chair graciously granted a point of personal privilege for me to share information with the messengers.

A statement had been made by one of the messengers that the Foreign Mission Board has over \$230,000,000 in endowments. In my response I indicated that the actual endowment is less than \$100,000,000. When I returned to my office and looked at the financial reports I found that the actual figure is \$80,000,000.

The Foreign Mission Board also maintains a "Contingency Reserve," mandated by the Southern Baptist Convention, of \$25,000,000 and an "Operating Reserve" to cover unanticipated non-budget and non-recurring needs of \$12,000,000. Both of these figures are quite modest percentages of our total budget.

Since I spoke to the messengers in general terms, I wanted Mississippi Baptists to be aware of these exact figures and also to be aware of the deep gratitude of your Foreign Mission Board for your continued support of the global mission cause. As a Mississippian I am proud of Mississippi Baptists' record in sacrificial giving and mission involvement.

Mississippi Baptists can have confidence in the fiscal integrity of your Foreign Mission Board. Trustees, staff, and missionaries approach our fiduciary responsibilities with a keen sense of being stewards before God and

before Southern Baptists.

Lewis T. Myers Jr.  
Vice president for CSI  
Foreign Mission Board  
Richmond, Va.

## Disappointed in article

Editor:

For a lot of years I've looked forward to getting each issue of *The Baptist Record*. I cannot tell in mere words the disappointment I felt, in fact outrage, when I got my Nov. 11 issue. The bold point in large print headlines, "Madonna, Michael Jackson [shows spark furor in Mexico]" (page 1).

Why in heaven's name did you allow that to happen? Those two are pure indecent exposure of two of the trashiest people on the face of this planet. I have never been so disgusted in my whole life. If you cannot find material decent to print, don't print anything at all.

Iona W. Lott  
Pascagoula

## Praying for families

Editor:

For months the Lord has shown me the need in praying for restoration of the family unit, the basic structure of our society (Ps. 127, Eph. 5).

Every time I read a daily newspaper, there will be from one to 20 young couples' names and wedding dates. I pray for these young couples, their lives, their weddings, and their salvation.

Also, you will see from one to 40 new babies' births listed. I also pray for these; their births, their lives, their families, and their salvation.

The Holy Spirit impressed me to ask you (the people of God, who pray) to help me in your county or city to pray for these young couples and babies listed in your newspapers. May God richly bless you as we pray.

Robert Polson  
Laurel



# CHANGE THE WORLD NOW!

Week of Prayer for  
Foreign Missions  
Nov. 28-Dec. 5, 1993  
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering  
National Goal: \$85 million



## BNF hosts baby shower

Nurses attending the 10th annual meeting of the Baptist Nursing Fellowship in Birmingham, Ala., Nov. 11-14, hosted a baby shower for the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Clarksdale. BNF members (left to right) Christine Pollock of Slidell, La., Ruth Watson of Hattiesburg, and Joanne Lisk of Vidalia, La., joined others in contributing baby gifts. The Crisis Pregnancy Center is sponsored by four Southern Baptist associations in Mississippi. It is one organization through which Southern Baptists' Mississippi River Ministry Project is coordinating work. (WMU photo by Dan Bryan)





## Riley assumes top MBREA office

Randy Riley (left), associate pastor/minister of education at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, presents a plaque to Joe Chapman of Ridgecrest Church, Madison, in honor of his service as president of the Mississippi Baptist Religious Educators Association (MBREA) for the past year. Riley is the incoming MBREA president, and Marcus Peagler, minister of education at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, will serve as president-elect for the coming year. The association met at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, prior to the beginning of the 1993 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## New England convention marks 10th anniversary

MARLBOROUGH, Mass. (BP) — New England Southern Baptists celebrated 10 years as a convention Nov. 11-12, with 277 messengers and 110 visitors gathering for the annual meeting in Marlborough, Mass.

The 1994 budget of \$2,428,645 represents a 9% increase over last year's budget. Of that total, New England Baptists are budgeted to give \$528,000 through Cooperative Program gifts. According to convention accountant John Ambra, "1993 actual CP receipts will be close to \$550,000 and we anticipate a 3-5% increase for 1994. We have changed over to actual receipts budgeting for 1994, however, and are using 1992 receipts as a conservative

planning base."

During his first annual meeting since becoming executive director, Ken Lyle gave messengers a synopsis of his first seven months in New England as well as thoughts of his vision for the future.

Lyle also announced the convention will receive, by Jan. 1, a gift of \$370,000 to undergird the ministry of the convention. The same donor will contribute \$900,000 to the Northeastern Baptist School of Ministry.

## Tentmaker founder dies at age 100

FORT WORTH (BP) — Former Home Mission Board field worker Fred McCaulley, who instituted the board's Tentmakers program in 1951, died Nov. 15 following an illness. He was 100 years old. McCaulley, a Lake City, Iowa, native, worked for the board from 1946 until his retirement in 1960. He is survived by three daughters.

## Homecomings

Harmony, Brookhaven: Nov. 28; 90th anniversary; former pastor M.R. Bradley of Selma, Ala., guest speaker; Dewey Smith, pastor.

## D.C. Baptists discuss money woes

WASHINGTON (BP) — Finances were a key topic of concern when District of Columbia Baptists gathered for their 117th annual session at People's Community Church Nov. 4-5.

In discussions about the 1994 convention budget of \$969,528, Normal Taylor, finance committee chair, noted annual shortfalls have become a serious trend that eventually may lead to curtailing mission programs.

The adopted budget is \$27,000 less than that of the previous year, he noted, and contributions must be increased to avoid a 1994 deficit that could total as high as \$70,000.

Georgetown pastor C.J. Malloy called churches to a "sense of urgency" relative to diminishing financial support.

Also during the convention:

— Executive Director/Minister Jere Allen underscored convention inclusiveness, stating his determination for it to continue to grow as

the body of free, diverse, and inclusive body of believers it has become.

— Messengers elected Ishmael

Shaw, pastor of Paramount Church, as president and Jerold Williamson from Bethesda, Md., as vice president.

## Louisiana Baptists draw record convention crowd

PINEVILLE, La. (BP) — The Louisiana Convention drew a record messenger attendance and faced a conservative-moderate choice during its annual meeting Nov. 15-16 in Pineville.

A record 2,537 messengers registered for the convention, topping the previous record of 2,155 in 1991. The 1993 and 1991 totals mark the only times in the convention's history messengers have topped 2,000.

In the election of convention president, Mark Sutton, pastor of Brookwood Church, Shreveport, received 53.4%, or 1,301 votes, over David Hankins, pastor of

Trinity Church, Lake Charles, with 1,130 votes, or 42.4%.

"The issue in the election focused on whether Louisiana needed the kind of course correction seen in the Southern Baptist Convention," reported Lacy Thompson, associate editor of the *Baptist Message*, the state newspaper.

Messengers adopted a \$17.6 million 1994 budget, up 2%, or \$350,000 from 1993. The convention will forward 35%, down from 35.25% this year, to the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program for national and international ministries.

## Georgia Baptists debate 7% CP church gift standard for convention nominees

SAVANNAH, Ga. (BP) — Georgia Baptists held a rather quiet convention in Savannah Nov. 15-17.

The closest thing to an "issue" that came to the convention floor was concern over the nominating committee's decision to fill positions on boards of convention agencies and institutions with people from churches that give at least 7% of total budget to the Cooperative Program. It was reported this decision had eliminated people from over half of GBC churches from consideration.

As a result, convention messengers voted approval for a study committee to be formed to deal

with the issue of what constitutes a "cooperating" church in "harmony" with the convention. That committee is to bring a report back to the GBC in 1994.

The convention approved a 1994 budget of \$33.7 million, the same as 1993. After taking out a category of expenses referred to as "shared responsibilities" (administrative expenses, pastors' annuity, WMU, The Christian Index,

etc.), totaling about 10% of total budget, all other mission gifts through the Cooperative Program will be divided as last year, equally between GBC and Southern Baptist Convention causes.

## Revival Dates

Antioch, Union: Nov. 28-Dec. 2; services, 7 p.m. each night; Carroll Roberson, Ripley, evangelist and music; James Young, pastor.

## CHURCH PEWS & FURNITURE CO.



★ Cushions ★ Baptisries  
★ Steeples ★ Renovation  
★ Pews and Pulpit  
Furniture  
(New and Used)  
Wallace E. Foy

WATTS 1-800-898-0551  
Jackson 957-3762

## Utah-Idaho welcomes 150 to 29th annual meeting

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho (BP) — "Redeeming the Time" was the theme for the 29th annual convention session Nov. 9-10 at Calvary Church in Idaho Falls, Idaho. The 137 messengers and 21 visitors heard messages on taking encouragement as well as warnings from the past, on using time wisely, and on making the most of every opportunity.

Mike Gray, pastor of Southeast Church in Salt Lake City, Utah, was unanimously elected

president. Ron Smith, pastor of First Southern Church, Bountiful, Utah, who served as second vice president this year, was chosen as first vice president. Bennie Wright, pastor of First Church, Fruitland, Idaho, was elected second vice president.

An overall budget of \$1,580,347 was adopted for 1994, with an anticipated \$458,178 in Cooperative Program giving from Utah-Idaho churches.

## 15 PASSENGER CHURCH VANS

We have the largest selection of 15 passenger church vans in Mississippi - new and used.

DUB HERRING FORD-LINCOLN-MERCURY  
DUB HERRING CHRYSLER-PLYMOUTH-DODGE  
We rent vans by the day, week or month.

Call the Hotline 1-800-776-5497

Ask for DONNIE COUNTS-Fleet Manager, or write to  
600 Hwy. 11 South, Picayune, MS 39466

## CLASSIFIED ADS

RATE: 50 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads.

**BAPTISTRY/BATHTUB REPAIR.** Porcelain or fiberglass. No job too large or small. Statewide service. No mileage charge. K&K Bathtub Repair, 1642 Hwy 84E, Laurel, MS 39440; 1-800-349-2882.

**YOUNG CONGREGATION** in fast growing suburban community is seeking energetic staff member. Must be willing to work Music-Youth combination until growth permits specialization. Background in Education and Youth preferred. Send resume with picture to P.O. Box 70593, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35407.

**CHURCH PEW CUSHIONS:** Manufactured in our plant. For free estimate contact — Emmons Brothers, P.O. Box 186, Meridian, Miss. 39301. Since 1899. Phone (601) 693-4451.

**YOUTH GROUPS NEEDED** in Atlanta, Orlando, Philadelphia, Baltimore, for summer mission projects 1994. We provide meals, lodging, assignment. For more information, costs, contact Dr. Harry Fowler, Youth on Mission, Box 2095, Rocky Mount, NC, 27802. (919) 985-4499.

**FOR SALE:** Ford 1987 Econoline 350, 29-passenger bus. Lakeshore Congregational Methodist Church, (601) 373-0295.

**ADOPTING** your newborn/toddler would be a special blessing for us. Childless couple wanting to become parents. Call Caren or John collect: (518) 235-8566.

**BIG TOP GOSPEL TENTS,** all sizes. Open Air Ministries. (318) 939-2239.



## Just for the Record



**First Church, Collinsville**, held its annual Recognition Service for mission organizations on Sept. 26. **Mission Friends**, first row, are Jodi McKee, then, Andrea Mabry, Lindsey Summerlin, Emily Walker, Austin Buchanan; second row, Thomas Walton, Kate Gressett, Emily Horton, Haley Williams, Haley Wilson, Riley Walton; third row, David Boyd and Amy Fleming. Mission Friends leaders are JoAnn Walker, Ginger Crenshaw, Lori Walton, Rusty Gressett, Denise Godwin, and Glenda Rowell.

**RAs**, front row, are Michael Carroll, Matthew Nelson, Jay Mabry, Ben Green; back row, Eric Smith, Matt Williams, Ronnie Mabry, Richard Smith, and Matthew Carroll. RA leaders are Terry White, Tommy Carroll, Bill Boyd, and Marc Craven.

**GAs**, first row, are Natalie Summerlin, Lindey Burks, Lauren Goodman, Courtney Godwin, Danielle Smith, Melissa Lofton, Amy Frazier, Sara McKee; second row, Cole Wilson, Larissa Fleming, Shannon Mabry, Shannon Smith, Heather Jones, Jessica Ethridge, Blair Kinard; third row, Holly Jones, Kylie Ethridge, Ashley Burks, Carly Wilson, and Jessica Mabry. GAs leaders are Hope Mabry, Debbie Smith, Regina Sonak, Amy Jones, Ginger Summerlin, and Tina Dean. The pastor is David Sellers.

**The Winters School of Music** at William Carey College will present two Christmas programs: "Ye Olde Madrigal Christmas Dinner," Dec. 2-4, in the Thomas Fine Arts Center; "Gloria" by Antonio Vivaldi, and "Gloria" by John Rutter, Dec. 14, 7 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, Hattiesburg. For more information, call (601) 582-6175.

**East Heights Church, Tupelo**, will host a Pastor's Conference led by W.A. Criswell of Dallas on Monday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. For more information, call the church office at 842-4947. Steve Bain is pastor.

**The Mississippi Chorus**, a 110-plus volunteer chorus, will perform "The Messiah" by George F. Handel on Dec. 3, and Giuseppe Verdi's "Requiem" on March 8. Both concerts will be performed

with the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra in the Jackson Municipal Auditorium. The highlight of the Mississippi Chorus' season is the performance of "The Creation" by Joseph Haydn, ranked as his greatest single achievement, on Feb. 19 in Vicksburg at the Vicksburg City Auditorium. All concerts will be held at 8 p.m. For more information, call 853-2855.

**Mississippi College's Department of Music** will present its annual Festival of Lights Dec. 2-3, 8:15 p.m. in the Spell Auditorium of Provine Chapel. The Concert Chorale, conducted by Richard Joiner; the MC Ringers; and the Naturals will perform.

**Liberty Church, Liberty**, will perform Handel's "Messiah," Nov. 28 at 4 p.m. Buddy McElroy is minister of music.



**RAs and GAs**, grades 1-6, mission groups of **First Church, Magnolia**, are pictured at left. RAs, from left, are Scott Flowers, Justin Seago, Jason Byrd, Zack Pattie, and Ben Welch. GAs, second row, are Megan Whittington, Molly Herbert, Nikki Lambert, Amanda Byrd, Megan Dunnam, and Michelle Flowers; top row, Melissa Jones, Patricia Honea, Taura Rhodus, and



Shannon Barron.

Youth Mission Groups pictured at right are **Pioneers**, seated, from left, T. C. Seago, Cory Temple, Bobby Lang, Dustin Barr, and Rusty Schilling. **Acteens**, standing, are Lori Jones, Kristy Welch, Mellonee Honea, and Holly Schilling. Paul Jones is pastor.



**Oak Grove Church, Meridian**, recently held its GA/Acteens Recognition Service with the theme, "Together... Our Light Will Shine." Pictured, back row, are Lindsay Speed, Adventure 3; Lesley Carr, Adventure 3; Stacey Carr, Queen; Shelby Carr, Queen with Scepter; Jaci Grant, Queen; and Jodi Hales, Adventure

1 and 2. Front row, pictured are Kara Hull, Crown Bearer; Jayme Hales, Scepter Bearer; Kaci Whitaker, Crown Bearer; Lauren Horne, Adventure 1; and Danielle McLemore, Adventure 3. Sandy Speed is GA leader and Natalie Matlock is Acteen leader.



**Mt. Olive Church, Smithdale**, recently held a recognition service for its GAs with the theme, "For the Beauty of the Earth." Pictured, from left, front row, are Amanda Welch, Amy Hall, Hope Griffin, Hannah Dickerson; second row, Sue Fleming, assistant junior GA leader, Amanda Cauthen, Jobina Williams, Jessica

Moore, Brittney Wroten, Lauren Nimon, Paula Nunnery, Linda Williams, senior GA leader; back row, Dianne Wallace, assistant junior GA leader, Janet Hall, junior GA leader, Marie Fleming, Elizabeth Dickerson, Cody Burris, Jessica Fleming, Becky Fleming, and Jewel Dickerson, assistant senior GA leader.

**Lamar Association** honored its director of missions and his wife, **Doug and Gail Benedict**, on their 10th anniversary. Approximately 300 people were in attendance at First Church, Purvis, on Oct. 17 for the service. The association honored the Benedicts with a 10-day vacation to Hawaii. Eugene Dobbs, administrative assistant for ministry, shared greetings from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.







**Rex Yancey** (left), pastor of First Church, Pascagoula, and his wife, Ellon, are introduced Nov. 17 to the 158th session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention following his election to succeed W.W. Walley of Waynesboro as president of the convention. Yancey, who outballoted Malcolm R. Lewis, pastor of Northcrest Church, Meridian, will serve a one-year term and will be eligible for election to a second one-year term in 1994. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## Floridians elect Hispanic v.p.

**FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (BP)** — A longtime West Palm Beach pastor, a Hispanic bivocational pastor, and a south Florida Woman's Missionary Union leader were elected to lead Florida Baptists during the coming year.

Elected as officers of the Florida State Convention during its annual meeting Nov. 15-17 in Fort Lauderdale were George Thomasson, pastor of the Northwood Church, West Palm Beach,

president; Rafael de Armas, pastor of the Primera Iglesia Bautista in Orlando, first vice president; and Tanna Dawson, a layperson from First Church, Fort Lauderdale.

The 1,441 messengers approved a \$24 million budget for 1994, the same as 1993. The same percentage allocation will remain of 49.6% for Florida Baptist causes; 42.2% for Southern Baptist Convention causes; 5% for church pastoral aid; and 3.18% for church annuity programs.



## LifeAnswers

**Ron Mumbower, Ed.D.**  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

*My wife wants our family to spend Thanksgiving and Christmas with her family. I want to stay at our house and begin family traditions of our own. We are deadlocked. How do we break this stalemate?*

How to spend the holidays is a common concern of most families. At first glance it appears that your wife is being selfish and inflexible. Have the two of you taken time to sit down and discuss the reasons for her strong opinions? Holidays can be extremely stressful when there are unresolved issues in families. There may be fear of letting go as parents and/or children age. There may be dreams that this year will be different from past years. The key words are compromise and communication. Take time to discuss each family member's wishes, and then begin looking at options that can match those wishes. A listening person is greatly needed in today's world. I encourage you to look beyond words and actions and see the needs.

*My three-year-old will not go to sleep at night. It is often 11 p.m. or midnight before she goes to sleep. Help!*

Every person has a different metabolic clock. Too bad our children's clocks do not match our own. Some suggestions:

— Put her to bed at the same time every night. She may not go to sleep, but she learns the value of time management, discipline, and obedience. Give her books or play tapes while she is in bed.

— Make her naps early. This may be inconvenient, but you must decide the best option for you: an early nap or a late night.

— Avoid excessive stimulation just before bedtime, such as wrestling, caffeine, and sugar treats. After supper, begin watching quiet television shows, playing games, or reading books, followed by a warm bath.

— Make sure she gets plenty of exercise in the afternoon.

— Realize that she will grow out of this or, at least, she will handle it better.

**Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name and address not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.**

# N.C. Baptist convention sets May 1 "Great American TV Turnoff Day"

**WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (BP)** — North Carolina Baptists elected moderates as convention officers, debated and finally approved a budget unchanged from the one proposed by their general board, and enthusiastically endorsed May 1, 1994, as the "Great American TV Turnoff Day."

The 5,108 messengers and visitors registered for the 163rd annual session of the State Convention of North Carolina, Nov. 15-17 in Winston-Salem, almost equaled the 1992 total of 5,150.

Alfred T. Ayscue, pastor of the Calvary Church in Mount Airy, won the presidency in a runoff

with Coy C. Privette, a former president of the convention and current executive director of the Christian Action League, a lobbying organization in the area of public morals.

Ayscue received 2,172 votes and Privette received 1,750 votes on the first ballot. In the runoff, Ayscue received 2,289 votes to Privette's 1,910 for a 54.5-45.5% division.

The \$28.8 million budget for 1994, proposed by the convention's general board, is unchanged from the total for 1993 with the same division — 62% for state causes and 38% for the Southern

Baptist Convention.

Included for the first time, a 1% budget item for the Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond sparked extended debate and three different attempts to delete or modify the amount before they were defeated.

Clay Warf, pastor of Roxboro Church, offered the motion to ask the Convention to make May 1, 1994 the "Great American TV Turnoff Day," and to invite other state conventions to participate. The date was chosen to coincide with the beginning of Christian Home Week in Southern Baptist churches.

## CONVENTION

From page 3

sioners requesting "your prayers, your understanding, your patience, and your support for Mississippi College."

Later, during the report of the Education Commission, acting President Rory Lee told messengers the school has implemented measures to make certain all gifts are used properly. He said in the several hundred letters and phone calls he received as the investigation of the school began, two things stood out. Lee said people told him that MC will move ahead; "We are positive about its future," he quoted callers as saying. And "We are praying for you and for MC."

In other business, a move to study the feasibility of moving in future years the convention to other sites in Mississippi failed after being considered twice.

On Tuesday Greg Martin, pastor of Commission Road Church, Long Beach, moved that the convention be held in 1995 on the Gulf Coast. The motion was referred to the Time, Place, and Preacher Committee which is charged with making such recommendations. Later, Martin appealed the ruling of the chair. That appeal failed.

The next day, Martin moved that the convention study the feasibility of moving the convention and consider making changes in the constitution so that the Time, Place, and Preacher Committee

can recommend places more than one year in advance. That motion failed. Messengers apparently were satisfied to continue holding the convention in Jackson where sessions have been held for more than 40 years.

A motion from the floor by Grady Crowell, director of missions for Clarke Association, failed in an attempt to by-pass a committee which is determining future use of the property in Newton of now-defunct Clarke College. The motion would have had the convention accepting a proposal from a group calling itself the Institute of Personal Achievement and wanting to open a Bible institute. The chair ruled such recommendations are in the hands of a Clarke study committee which reports back to the Executive Committee, the convention board, and ultimately to the full convention. The chair's ruling was sustained in an appeal.

Two constitutional changes were considered. The first was read last year and approved this year, as the constitution requires. It will have the Convention Annual to include Mississippi Baptist minister directories each year instead of alternating years.

The second change was read for consideration next year. It involves deleting the convention board departments by name to prevent the necessity of changing the constitution each time a department name is changed. For instance, the Discipleship Training program at the Baptist Sunday School Board is changing its name

to Discipleship and Family Ministry. The Discipleship Training Department of the convention board is following suit, but such requires constitutional change for now.

Outgoing President W.W. Walley of Waynesboro named the 1994 Committee on Committees. They are Frank Gunn, Biloxi, chairman; Haywood Washburn, Tupelo; David Medlin, Meridian; Martha Knight Grayson, Yazoo City; and Ed Holmes, Gulfport.

The 1994 convention will take place at First Church, Jackson, Nov. 1-2, with Gordon Sansing, pastor of First Church, Vicksburg, preaching the annual sermon. John Armistead, pastor of Calvary Church, Tupelo, is alternate. Committee Chairman Thomas Tutor, pastor of Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale, said the change to the first days of November is because the next week there will be a national election, and the week after that, First Church, Jackson, had a conflict in scheduling.

**Nicholas is director, Office of Communication, MBCB.**

## The Dogwood Blossom



Polished Pewter \$9.95  
SIXTH EDITION Gold overlay \$14.95

The Original  
**MISSISSIPPI CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT**

Designed and made in Mississippi  
Gift Boxed LA, AL, TX, TN & GA plus back issues available. Tax + shipping added.

Actual Size 2 1/4" x 2 1/2"  
**FREE SHIPPING** on 6 or more ornaments to same address

established 1966  
**MARTIN MIAZZA**

1208 Pass Rd., Gulfport, MS 39501

Call Toll-Free 1-800-476-1208

Sorry, No Checks.



## ALL NEW CHAMPION CRUSADER

14 Passenger Full Size Bus  
NO CDL REQUIRED

**Bus Supply Company**

Hwy. 98 East

(601) 684-2900

McComb, MS

1-800-748-8681



## Uniform

### The ability to bless



By Michael O'Brien  
Genesis 48

The key passage in our lesson today is: "His younger brother will be greater than he, and his descendants will become a group of nations" (v. 19b, NIV).

I read a little book several years ago that really stuck with me through the years; it was called, **The Power to Bless**. Blessing another person is to some degree a power we all possess. Visiting in the hospital one day not long ago I had prayer with a family who had a loved one lying comatose on the bed. After I prayed with them, I walked to the bedside, placed my hand on his forehead, and prayed for him as though he were hearing every word I said. Did he hear me? I'm really not sure. Did God hear me? Of that I am very sure. We all have the power to bless our children and others to a certain degree.

**The desire to bless (vv. 9-11).** What a joyful age it was for Israel (Jacob) to see his grandchildren and act much like a grandfather today. Which of us (I am a grandfather) does not enjoy giving a gift to our grandchildren? Israel's gift was not to be a 10-speed bike, however, but his blessing. It was in his heart.

**The direction to bless (vv. 12-14).** Joseph knew how he wanted his children to receive the blessing, and in what order. He tried to direct his father by placing the children in a certain location; Manasseh on the right. Israel also knew the direction he wanted his blessing to take, so he simply crossed his hands over his body.

**The determination to bless (vv. 15-16).** Israel (Jacob) had prayed and had heard from God. He was determined to do the will of God when he gave his blessing. The will of God should always come first in our lives. If for any reason it does not please a family member or friend, so be it. Always keep in mind: God first, family second, even before church. Some pastors have a problem with this, putting their churches before their families. However, the institution of the family was placed first in the Garden. God has not changed.

**The duty to bless (vv. 17-19).** Joseph was not a happy camper. He came to see his father because he knew it might not be long before God called him home. He also wanted his father to bless these children. He tried to guide his father to his first-born when he saw the placement of his hands. "No, my father" (v. 18). Just like Israel, we also have a duty to obey what we believe to be the will of God. Our children may not agree, but in our power to bless, we must also remember who provides the blessings we impart.

As we consider this lesson, let's all try to strengthen our own relationships with God. If we know that we are in touch with him, we will recognize when things that may seem right to us or someone else may not be his perfect will. Real joy comes to every believer who is keenly aware that what he is doing, even in imparting a blessing, is God's will.

O'Brien is pastor, First Church, Lexington.

However you say His name

Jesus Christ 耶穌 Jises Kraist  
Jesus Kristus 耶穌 Jézu-Kri  
Yesu Kristo 耶穌 Jisu Krishtit  
يسوع المسيح Jesucristo

1.2 billion people  
have never heard it.

Will you share it with them?

For more information on missionary and volunteer service opportunities,  
call 1-800-866-FMBI or write the Initial Contacts Desk,  
Foreign Mission Board, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23210-0767.

## Bible Book

### Obedience and commitment



By Jewel P. Merritt  
Deuteronomy 27, 28

People learn in different ways. Some learn by seeing information. Facts read in a book, on a chalkboard, or poster, or even on a sign, are easier for these people to remember. Others can learn more rapidly by hearing and repeating new material. Everyone learns and retains better if they are given the opportunity to experience by doing. Good teachers, whether they are at home or at school, provide varying means for pupils to learn. Before education courses were ever taught, God provided different ways for his children to learn also. Our lesson Sunday is a perfect example.

**Making the law known in the Promised Land (27:2-3).** God had promised this land to Abraham and had renewed that promise to Isaac and Jacob. The promise had been repeated to this nation of former slaves. If God has said it, it will surely come to pass.

Moses began by saying, "When you get there...." What assurance that must have given the people! God's grace had provided for his people in miraculous, marvelous ways. They needed a visual reminder of his laws. Those who learned by seeing would be especially helped.

The people were to set up some large stones and white-wash them. On this surface they were to write the words of the law. Not only would this visual reminder be an aid to the Israelites to keep God's law, it would serve notice to those who traveled through their land of the just, holy, and wise God served by the Israelites.

**Provisions for pronouncing the blessing and cursing (27:12-13).** Some schools post the rules students are expected to follow in prominent places. Part of the first day of school is spent in reading and discussing these standards and the punishment that can be expected for disobedience.

Moses directed the people to stand by tribes on Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal. Those on Mount Gerizim were to repeat the blessings of God if the people were obedient. The tribes on Mount Ebal were to pronounce the curses for disobedience. Such vocal repetition would be helpful to those who learned best by hearing.

**The curse for disobeying God (27:14-16).** We enjoy singing and thinking about God's love, mercy, and grace, and so we should. It's important to remember that he is also the righteous Judge who punishes sin. Moses reminded the Hebrews that breaking God's commandments would bring punishment.

The first curse to be spoken dealt with the making of idols. Our relationship to God should be of primary importance. If anything comes between the Lord and us, it becomes an idol. Notice that the idol might be set up and worshiped in secret. Others may never learn of our secret sins, but God is aware of them.

Other curses followed this first one. After the Levites recited each curse, the people were to say, "Amen."

**The blessing for obeying God (28:1-3).** God bestows such blessings on people. Jesus said, "He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" (Matt. 5:45, NIV). He blesses his obedient children wherever they are — in the city or in the country. He never forsakes his own.

When we consider the blessings and curses spoken of by Moses, we need to remind ourselves of the words in Deuteronomy 7:9b-10: "I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments" (NIV).

**The curses for disobeying God emphasized and expanded (28:47-48).** Sadly, Moses saw a time in the future when the people would no longer serve the Lord joyfully and gladly. Because they would turn away from God, he would turn away from them.

Whatever one's learning style, the pupil must reinforce what has been learned by doing it. Failure to obey — or to do — God's laws will surely lead to punishment.

Merritt is a member of First Church, Jackson.

## Life and Work

### The suffering servant



By Mark A. Rathel  
Isaiah 53

This climactic stanza of Isaiah's masterful Servant Song heralds the triumphant suffering of God's Servant. The early church focused on this passage as a facilitator in understanding the life of Christ. Indeed, the New Testament reproduces the whole of Isaiah 53 through quotations of early sermons. Isaiah 53 provided a biblical text for preaching and understanding the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. The melody of Isaiah 53 moves from despicableness to glory.

**The Servant was not esteemed by his people (vv. 1-3).** The Servant grew up before God like a tender shoot, an expression reminiscent of the Servant's descentance from the root of Jesse. The Servant, though, existed in a hostile environment, like a root in dry, parched ground. In this hostile environment the Servant discovered nourishment through obedience to the will of God.

The Servant did not possess the qualities and attributes people sought in a divine figure. As a young Christian, I pictured Jesus as a beautiful, physically perfect archetype of God's creation. In my mind, the physical appearance of Jesus commanded respect from his contemporaries. This climactic Servant Song corrected my innocent error. Jesus' contemporaries did not observe any majesty in Jesus' outward appearance. The suffering of the Servant caused people to turn from him in contempt.

**The Servant suffered for others (vv. 4-6).** Previously, Isaiah recorded the Servant's testimony of innocence (50:5, 8). In light of his suffering, some regarded the Servant as smitten by God (53:4). Yet, the Servant suffered on behalf of others. While humans may suffer so that others may benefit, the description of the Servant's suffering transcend any human possibilities. First, the Servant suffered on behalf of the transgressions and iniquities of others. Transgressions are rebellious actions expressly in disobedience to God's established boundaries. Iniquities are revelations of our inner, moral crookedness. Isaiah further defined sin as universal (all), separation from the Master (astray), and self-will (his own way). Second, the Servant's sufferings result in peace and healing. Peace refers to spiritual well-being, a state of an individual who has experienced forgiveness of sins. Healing refers to spiritual health or well-being. The Servant's suffering reconciles man with his creator.

**The Servant suffered in silence (vv. 7-9).** During his illegal trials, Jesus spoke only concerning his identity. He willingly endured the experience of crucifixion, one of the most painful methods of execution ever devised. Sheep are silent before the shearers because they do not know the details of their future. Christ, in contrast, repeatedly instructed the disciples concerning his approaching death.

Because of his actions on behalf of the sins of others, the Servant died. The leaders responsible for Jesus' death, no doubt, planned to dispose of the body by throwing it into the criminals' grave. God did not allow such a desecration. In an act of loving service, Joseph allowed the body of Christ to be buried in his grave.

**The Servant triumphed (vv. 10-12).** God's response to the suffering of the Servant was one of pleasure. Rather than being smitten of God, the suffering and death of the Servant fulfilled the plan and purpose of God. When a worshiper appropriates the Servant's sacrifice as the means of approaching God, the worshiper experiences justification. The triumph of the Servant is threefold. He is enabled to see his offspring, the spiritual progeny. God prolongs his days. Even though Jesus died, he arose. He divides the booty as a conquering general divides the spoils of war. Through his resurrection, Christ defeated the devil.

Rathel is pastor, Bay Vista Church, Biloxi.





Jason Simpson (center) fends off the affections of Margaret Hurt (right) as Emily Vardaman encourages them to color with crayons while the parents attend the 158th session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Nov. 17 at First Church, Jackson. Jason ultimately decided to put some distance between himself and Margaret and retreated to another table so he could concentrate on his coloring. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## capsules

**CABLE NETWORKS TO AIR "TRUE LOVE WAITS" SPECIAL:** NASHVILLE (BP) — Three cable television networks will carry a 30-minute special on "True Love Waits," a national sexual abstinence campaign initiated by the Baptist Sunday School Board. The special will air Nov. 28 on the Contemporary Christian Music Television (CCM-TV) program which is broadcast on the VISION-Acts Network, Family Channel, and the Inspirational Network. The program will include comments and music video clips from several contemporary Christian recording artists who have endorsed "True Love Waits," including DC Talk, the Newsboys, DeGarmo & Key, and Lisa Bevell. Check TV listings for times the special will be aired on each network.

**N.M. BAPTISTS APPROVE ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN:** ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (BP) — New Mexico Baptists adopted a record budget, heard plans of a \$2 million endowment campaign to be launched by their foundation, and, from beginning to end, had a peaceful convention. The Cooperative Program budget for the new year is \$2.7 million, compared with \$2.6 million in 1993. The ratio for the two years is the same: 69.5% to remain in New Mexico for mission ministries and 30.5% for worldwide Southern Baptist causes. The convention's overall 1994 budget will be \$5.5 million.

## Ala. messengers fight gambling, re-elect Corder, move trustee issue to '94

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (BP) — Alabama Baptists re-elected their president, prepared to fight the campaigns for casino gambling in the state, and put off a controversial trustee provision in the bylaws until next year, as 1,785 convention messengers met in the 171st annual session Nov. 16-17 in Huntsville.

Dewey Corder, pastor of First Church, Trussville, was re-elected president without opposition. His opponent in last year's presidential race, Fred Lackey, pastor of First Church, Athens, was elected first vice president, also by acclamation. In the race for second vice president, Jeff Noblitt, pastor of First Church, Muscle Shoals, defeated layman Bob Smith of the Mountain Brook Church, Birmingham.

But in a state board of missions meeting just prior to the convention meeting, Steve Gaines, pastor of First Church, Gardendale, com-

plained the trustee boards of the three institutions of higher learning — Judson College, Sanford University, and the University of Mobile — were each dominated by two or three local churches, and that there were too few pastors on the boards.

He moved the bylaws to be amended to limit the number of trustees on a convention board to no more than two trustees from a single church. The amendment passed by a 38-37 vote, but the motion to impose no more than a two-thirds/one-third balance between either clergy and laypersons failed by a 39-34 vote.

Messengers adopted a 1994 Cooperative Program budget of \$28,885,000, the same as last year, to be distributed 42.3% to Southern Baptist Convention causes and 57.7% to Alabama Baptist mission causes, the same percentages as last year.

## Clinton exhorts even his critics to express their faith publicly

WASHINGTON (BP) — Before signing the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, President Bill Clinton exhorted Americans, including those who oppose his policies based on religious belief, to bring their differing convictions to the public arena in an attempt to strengthen the country.

"It is high time we had an open and honest reaffirmation of the role of American citizens of faith — not so that we can agree, but so that we can argue and discourse and seek the truth and seek to heal this troubled land," Clinton said Nov. 16 after departing from his

prepared statement.

Richard Land, whose agency, the Christian Life Commission, has criticized the Clinton administration's support of abortion and homosexual rights, said he was "greatly encouraged" by the president's comments.

"I think everyone present at the signing ceremony was moved as the president put down his notecards and spoke from his heart of the moral crisis in our nation and of the desperate need and right of people to bring their faith convictions to the public square in a joint search for truth and meaning,"

said the CLC's executive director, who was among about 200 people attending the event on the White House grounds.

In encouraging the expression of religious convictions, Clinton referred for the second time recently to the influence on him of Stephen Carter's new book, *The Culture of Disbelief*. In it, Carter, a Yale University law professor, offers compelling evidence influential people and institutions have trivialized religion. The result, Clinton said of Carter's assertions, is a "climate in this country in which some people believe that they are embarrassed to say that they advocate a course of action simply because they believe it is the right thing, because they believe it is dictated by their faith, by what they discern to be, with their best efforts, the will of God."

Clinton also said, "We are a people of faith. We have been so secure in that faith that we have enshrined in our Constitution protection for people who profess no faith. And good for us for doing so. That is what the First Amendment is all about."

## Michigan begins search for new exec. director

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (BP) — The Baptist State Convention of Michigan elected a search committee for a successor to 23-year Executive Director Robert Wilson, who notified the convention of his intention to retire at the end of 1994.

The 248 messengers at the convention's 36th annual meeting at Cherryland Church, Traverse City, approved a 1994 budget of \$2,919,813.11, anticipating \$1,266,687.30 in Cooperative Program gifts from Michigan's churches. Of the CP budget, 31.5%, or \$399,006.50, will be forwarded to Southern Baptist Convention national and international ministries.

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
copyright 1993

IJ JKIJ MIC GKITT I PIR TEEB JE KOG PIBUL, IRM  
KOG UCUÇ GKITT KIDU LUGZUWJ JE JKU KETC  
ERU EX OGLIUT.

OGIOIK GUDURJUUR: GUDUR

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Hebrews Seven:Twenty-Five.



Student nurses from Mississippi College conduct their annual Health Fair Nov. 17 for Mississippi Baptist Convention messengers. The fair was held on the first floor of the Baptist Building in downtown Jackson, across Mississippi Street from the site of the 158th session of the convention at First Church, Jackson. One of the featured health checks was a computer-aided body fat analysis for conventioners hardy enough to brave the often-surprising results. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Baptist Record

Noven

005-DTM 291 11-25  
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SD 00  
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401  
NASHVILLE TN 37203

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205